

Diocese of Colorado Springs

Essential Curriculum Expectations

For

Religious Education

Kindergarten

I. Creed – Profession of Faith

This section deals with what God, Our Heavenly Father, has revealed about Himself and His plan for our salvation. This has been revealed through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The delivery of the Faith begins with the fact that God acted first – He has given us everything for no other reason than that He loves us.

At the end of the school year, Kindergarten students should know:

- We believe in one God ccc 200
- We believe in the Holy Trinity ccc 232
- God the Father is a loving Father, who made us and cares for us ccc 301 – 305
- God the Father created the world and everything in it ccc 290 -295
- Jesus is the Son of God, that the Father sent Jesus to save us from sin and to teach us how to live so that we can get to heaven ccc 422-426
- Jesus teaches us how to love God and others ccc 459
- The Holy Spirit was sent to help us and is always with us ccc 733
- The Bible is a special book that tells us about God ccc 104
- We belong to the Catholic Church ccc 830-835
- The Church is God's Family on earth ccc 759
- They learn about God through their families ccc 1655
- The Church is all over the world ccc 868
- The Apostles were Jesus' close friends and they continued to build the Church after He went back to heaven ccc 857-59
- Our priests, bishops and the Pope are descended from the Apostles ccc 860-862

The Kindergarten students should be taken on a tour of their Church building and should be introduced to the liturgical gestures used during Mass – genuflection, kneeling, sign of the cross, handshake of peace and folding hands for prayer.

II. Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian Mystery

This section deals with the way God, Our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit continues to make Himself and His plan for our salvation present today. In the sacraments God touches us and we touch Him. This touch changes us in that we are freed from sin

and become His children. God has given us everything simply because He loves us. The reception of the sacraments is one way we say “yes” to God.

At the end of the school year, Kindergarten students should know:

- We become members of God’s family at Baptism ccc 804, 1213
- Grace is God’s life in us ccc 1999
- God wants His family to gather together on Sunday, His special day ccc 1066 - 1075
- During Mass Jesus is with us and shares a special meal with us ccc 1382
- We as God’s family celebrate special days together ccc 2180
- The Church (Liturgical) year has seasons – Ordinary Time, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum and Easter ccc 1168
- The different colors used in the Church pertain to these seasons ccc 1189
- What a Sacrament is ccc 1131
- There are seven Sacraments and be familiar with their names

III. Moral Development – Life in Christ

This section deals with our response to God’s love for us. As His children, we want to live as Jesus taught us.

At the end of the school year, Kindergarten students should know:

- God made each of us – we are unique and special to Him and He loves us ccc 218 -21
- We should take care of ourselves ccc 1004
- God made everyone and loves them too ccc 1934, 2052
- We are to love each other as God loves us ccc 1822
- We are supposed to share the good things God has given us with others ccc 1939 – 42
- Jesus taught us about God and how we are supposed to act to show our love for God ccc 426
- We are free to make choices and that we are responsible for the choices we make ccc 387

- Service to others is one way we show God we love Him (they should take part in food and clothing drives, etc.) ccc 1940
- We need to take care of the Earth and all the animals in it ccc 339
- The Saints are models of love and service and hearing the stories about their lives shows us how real people love God back

IV. Prayer Life

This section deals with another way we respond to God. As His children we must get to know Him better and spend time talking with and listening to Him. We learn about God by reading the Bible and prayer is essential for growing as a child of God.

At the end of the school year, Kindergarten students should know:

- Prayer is talking to and listening to God ccc 2558 – 59
- We pray together at Mass ccc 1083
- There are different kinds of prayer – praise, thanksgiving, intercession and petition ccc 2639, 2637, 2629, 2634
- Jesus taught us to pray by giving us the Lord’s Prayer ccc 2759
- They should start and end each day with prayer – they should memorize the Sign of the Cross, the Glory Be, a Grace Before Meals, Angel of God, Now I Lay Me... and other appropriate prayers (memorization of basic prayers offers essential support to a prayer life, but it is also important that students savor their meaning ccc 2688)
- There are many ways to pray – spontaneous prayer, song, silence, etc.
- The Bible is the story about God and His people and that God speaks to us through the stories ccc 104
- The basic Old Testament stories about Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the flood, Abraham and Moses and the Ten Commandments
- The basic New Testament stories about Mary and the Angel, the Holy Family, the Nativity, Jesus in the Temple, the stories of Jesus’ adult life, His miracles, His death and the Easter story
- That Jesus is always with us ccc 667
- The difference between Angels and Saints ccc 350, 828

Kindergarten students should each have a Catholic Children’s Bible and a Book of Basic Prayers

Diocese of Colorado Springs

Essential Curriculum Expectations

For

Religious Education

First Grade

I. Creed – Profession of Faith

This section deals with what God, Our Heavenly Father, has revealed about Himself and His plan for our salvation. This has been revealed through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The delivery of the Faith begins with the fact that God acted first – He has given us everything for no other reason than that He loves us.

At the end of the school year First Graders should:

- Know that there is only one God, He always was and always will be ccc 228
- Know that God's name is Holy ccc 2143
- Know that we believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit – The Holy Trinity ccc 232
- Know that we are made in God's image and likeness ccc 355 – 361
- Know that God the Father created the world and everything in it ccc 290 - 301
- Know that God sent His only Son, Jesus, to us ccc 457
- Know that Jesus came to save us and to teach us how to live so we can get to heaven ccc 459
- Know that the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles and helped them start the Church ccc 685 – 86
- Know that the Holy Spirit is with us today to help us live the way God wants us to ccc 733
- Know that the Sign of the Cross is a prayer to the Blessed Trinity ccc 1061 – 1065
- Know that they belong to the Catholic Church ccc 830 – 35
- Know that Jesus started the Church when He was on earth ccc 811
- Know that God expects us to live as His Holy People ccc 825
- Know that the Church is all over the world ccc 752
- Know that the apostles led and cared for the Church after Jesus went back to heaven ccc 857 – 59
- Know that the Pope, Bishops and Priests are the Apostles of today ccc 860 – 62
- Know that their parish is their Church family on earth ccc 832
- Know that their parish is part of a diocese that is part of the world wide Church ccc 833

- Know that the Pope is in Rome (Vatican City.) They should also know the names of their Pastor, priest and deacon.

II. Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian Mystery

This section deals with the way God, Our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit continues to make Himself and His plan for our salvation present today. In the sacraments God touches us and we touch Him. This touch changes us in that we are freed from sin and become His children. God has given us everything simply because He loves us. The reception of the sacraments is one way we say “yes” to God.

At the end of the school year First Graders should:

- Know that the Church building is the House of God and a House of Prayer ccc 1180 – 81
- Jesus is present in the Church in the Blessed Sacrament housed in the Tabernacle ccc 1378 – 79
- Be attending Mass regularly ccc 2192
- Know that at Mass we gather together to pray and worship God ccc 1083
- Know that at Mass we listen to God’s word ccc 1070
- Understand that at Mass our gifts of bread and wine become Jesus’ Body and Blood ccc 1357
- Know about the liturgical seasons – Ordinary time, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, and Easter ccc 1168
- Know the liturgical colors associated with each of the seasons ccc 1189
- Know that Jesus gave us seven Sacraments and be familiar with their names ccc 1131
- Know that at Baptism they became members of the Church and that it is the gateway to all the other Sacraments ccc 1213
- Know that through Baptism we receive:
 - forgiveness of original sin and all personal sin,
 - an indelible mark on our souls (Baptism can never be repeated),
 - grace – God’s life in us
 - and we become adopted children of God ccc 1265 – 66, 1279 – 80
- Understand that Holy Water is a reminder of Baptism ccc 1668
- Know that God expects us to make good choices ccc 1728

- Know that when we make bad choices we are responsible for them ccc 311
- Know that God is always ready to forgive us when we are sorry ccc 1440, 1465
- Know that God expects us to forgive each other ccc 2840
- Know that Jesus shared a special meal with His disciples at the Last Supper ccc 1329
- Know that at Mass we celebrate that meal together in the Eucharist ccc 1330

III. Moral Development – Life in Christ

This section deals with our response to God's love for us. As His children, we want to live as Jesus taught us.

At the end of the school year, First Graders should:

- Know that God loves us and all people ccc 218 – 221
- Realize that learning about God and how He wants us to live begins in our families ccc 1655 – 57
- Know that God expects us to love others the way we love ourselves ccc 1878
- Know that God expects us to respect ourselves and others ccc 1004
- Know that we are to respect the property of others ccc 2401
- Know that everything we have is a gift from God, especially the gift of our life ccc 226
- Know that we are to share what we have been given with those who are in need ccc 2013
- Know that we are to take care of those who cannot take care of themselves ccc 1822 – 23
- Understand the importance of telling the truth ccc 2464
- Understand that we are free to make choices and that we are responsible for the choices we make ccc 387
- Understand that sin is an offense against God ccc 1850
- Know that we are supposed to share God's peace with everyone ccc 2304
- Understand that when we make a bad choice, God will forgive us if we are sorry and ask Him to ccc 1440, 1465

- Understand that we are to forgive each other the way God forgives us ccc 2840
- Know that the world and everything in it is God's gift to us ccc 299
- Know that we are supposed to take care of the earth and all the animals in it ccc 339

IV. Prayer Life

This section deals with another way we respond to God. As His children we must get to know Him better and spend time talking with and listening to Him. We learn about God by reading the Bible and prayer is essential for growing as a child of God.

At the end of the school year, First Graders should:

- Know that praying is talking with and listening to God ccc 2559
- Know that we can pray whenever we need to about whatever we want ccc 2743
- Know that there are different kinds of prayers – praise, thanksgiving, intercession and petition ccc 2639, 2637, 2634, 2629
- Have the basic prayers (Sign of the Cross, Glory Be, Grace Before Meals, etc.) memorized and be working on the Our Father and Hail Mary (memorization of basic prayers offers essential support to a prayer life, but it is also important that students savor their meaning ccc 2688)
- Be introduced to the Rosary ccc 2678
- Take a tour of their Church building, be familiar with its parts, learn about the priest's vestments and the vessels used during Mass
- Have and use a Mass book
- Know that we hear God's word at Mass and that those readings come from the Bible ccc 1103, 1349
- Know that we learn about God and how He wants us to live by reading the Bible ccc 104
- Be familiar with the Old Testament stories of Creation, Adam and Eve, Original Sin, the Promise of a Savior, Cain and Able, Noah, Abraham, Moses and the Ten Commandments and David and Goliath
- Be familiar with the New Testament stories about the Holy Family, the Nativity, Jesus in the Temple, the good Samaritan, Jesus Feeds the

Multitude, Jesus and the Children, Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray,
Jesus Healing the People, Jesus' Death, the Easter Story and Pentecost

- Be read the Lives of the Saints
- Be reading a Catholic Children's Bible

Diocese of Colorado Springs

Essential Curriculum Expectations

For

Religious Education

Second Grade

I. Creed – Profession of Faith

This section deals with what God, Our Heavenly Father, has revealed about Himself and His plan for our salvation. This has been revealed through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The delivery of the Faith begins with the fact that God acted first – He has given us everything for no other reason than that He loves us.

At the end of the school year, Second Graders should:

- Know that we believe in one God and that He is all-loving, almighty, all-knowing and all present ccc 233, 268 – 78
- Know that God is three Persons in one being: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, the blessed Trinity ccc 238 – 248
- Know that God made us in His image – we have a body and a soul and when we get to heaven we become saints ccc 362 – 368
- Know that God created the Angels, purely spiritual beings (no bodies) who live with Him in Heaven. Each person has a guardian angel who helps them and protects them from harm ccc 330, 336, 352
- Know that God the Father is the creator of all things ccc 290 - 301
- Know that Jesus, the Son of God, became a man and lived and died on earth to save us all from sin and make us His children ccc 443 – 44, 571, 724, 733
- Know that Mary is the Mother of Jesus and therefore the Mother of God ccc 487, 495
- Know that Jesus suffered, died on the cross and rose on Easter Sunday to save us from sin, so we can be with Him in heaven forever ccc 612 – 646
- Know that Jesus ascended to heaven, but is always with us ccc 690, 662
- Know that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us at Pentecost ccc 742
- Know that the Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray ccc 741
- Know the Nicene Creed
- Be introduced to the four marks of the Church – One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic ccc 813, 249, 830, 857
- Understand that they belong to a parish, which in turn is part of a diocese, that is part of the Universal Church with the head of the Church being the Pope in Vatican City ccc 937 – 39

II. Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian Mystery

This section deals with the way God, Our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit continues to make Himself and His plan for our salvation present today. In the sacraments God touches us and we touch Him. This touch changes us in that we are freed from sin and become His children. God has given us everything simply because He loves us. The reception of the sacraments is one way we say “yes” to God.

At the end of the school year, Second Graders should:

- Be very familiar with the Mass – its parts, prayers, responses and gestures ccc 1345 – 55
- Be familiar with the priests vestments and the vessels used during Mass
- Be able to explain the symbolism of the colors used during the liturgical year
- Have a very good understanding of the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist and a basic understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation ccc 1262 – 63, 1422, 1333, 1286 – 87 (catechesis for the first reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist should occur during this year)
- Know the Ten Commandments and use them as a guide for their examination of conscience ccc 1781, 1962
- Know the Sacraments of Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing and the Sacraments of Service
- Know the requirements for making a good confession ccc 1451, 1490 – 92
- Know that it is God who forgives our sins through the actions and words of the priest ccc 1461 - 65
- Know the requirements for receiving Holy Communion ccc 1385 – 87
- Be introduced to Sacramentals ccc 1674

III. Moral Development – Life in Christ

This section deals with our response to God’s love for us. As His children, we want to live as Jesus taught us.

At the end of the school year, Second Graders should:

- Have a very good understanding of the Ten Commandments (and hopefully have them memorized) and be able to relate them to their everyday life ccc 2052
- Have a deep respect for all human life from conception to old age ccc 2319
- Have an good understanding of the concepts of conscience, free will and responsibility for our actions and words ccc 1700, 1730 – 32, 1777 - 78
- Understand the concept of temptation and our human tendency to commit sin ccc 418 – 21
- Be very aware that we have the ability to make choices and what we choose to do or say can help or hurt people ccc 1786
- Know that the Holy Spirit helps us resist temptation and make good choices
- Know that we continue Jesus’ work here on earth when we follow God’s laws and help each other ccc 1713
- Know that they should be attending Mass regularly, receiving the Sacraments often, praying daily, reading the Bible and doing works of service to develop a close relationship with God

IV. Prayer Life

This section deals with another way we respond to God. As His children we must get to know Him better and spend time talking with and listening to Him. We learn about God by reading the Bible and prayer is essential for growing as a child of God.

At the end of the school year, Second Graders should:

- Have started the habit of beginning and ending each day with prayer ccc 2659 - 60
- Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days ccc 2177, 2180
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation often
- Have memorized an Act of Contrition
- Experience prayer in a variety of ways – spontaneously, silently, with Scripture and with song, gestures and movement
- Know that the Bible is the inspired Word of God

- Be familiar with the bible stories of John the Baptist, the Road to Emmaus, the Prodigal Son, The Great Commandment, the Good Shepherd and Zacchaeus
- Be familiar with what happened at Pentecost
- Know about the life of Mary ccc 963, 973
- Know about the lives of the Apostles, especially Peter and Paul
- Read the Lives of the Saints
- Be introduced to the Stations of the Cross

Diocese of Colorado Springs

Essential Curriculum Expectations

For

Religious Education

Third Grade

I. Creed – Profession of Faith

This section deals with what God, Our Heavenly Father, has revealed about Himself and His plan for our salvation. This has been revealed through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The delivery of the Faith begins with the fact that God acted first – He has given us everything for no other reason than that He loves us.

At the end of the school year, Third Graders should:

- Be very familiar with the belief in the Triune God ccc 232 – 34
- Know that God the Father created us in His image with body and soul, intellect and free will ccc 362 – 368
- Know that Jesus, the Son of God, became man, lived His life to teach us how to live, suffered and died on the Cross to save us, rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, Ascended to heaven, and promised He will come again ccc 422, 457, 605, 648, 657, 682
- Know that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost and still guides the Church today ccc 243, 345
- Know and understand the Apostles Creed ccc 190
- Have a good understanding of the four marks of the Church:
 - One – the Church was started by Jesus and is still true to His teachings today ccc 823 – 24
 - Holy – God calls all people to be Holy and to live by the example Jesus gave us ccc 2013
 - Catholic – the Church is world wide (universal) and open to all people ccc 830 – 31
 - Apostolic – the Church was led by the apostles, Peter was the first Pope and the line of the priesthood has been passed down to the present ccc 857
- Know that they belong to a parish, that is part of a diocese headed by a Bishop and that the diocese is one of many in the world that are all under the Pope in Vatican City ccc 1536, 1554, 1593

II. Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian Mystery

This section deals with the way God, Our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit continues to make Himself and His plan for our salvation present today. In the sacraments God touches us and we touch Him. This touch changes us in that we are freed from sin

and become His children. God has given us everything simply because He loves us. The reception of the sacraments is one way we say “yes” to God.

At the end of the school year, Third Graders should:

- Know that “liturgy” means the participation of the people in God’s Work ccc 1069
- Be very familiar with the celebration of the Mass – the parts of the Mass, the responses, the prayers, gestures, postures and songs, vestments and vessels used ccc 1345 – 55
- Understand the significance of using Holy Water when entering and leaving the Church
- Be familiar with the seasons of the Liturgical calendar and with the colors associated with each one ccc 1163 – 71
- Be very familiar with the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist and have a good understanding of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick ccc 1234 – 35, 1322 – 27, 1440 – 45, 1285 – 89, 1601, 1536 – 38, 1499
- Know that Jesus gave us the seven sacraments and through them we are given God’s life (sanctifying grace) ccc 1131
- Know that they should receive the Sacrament of Eucharist every time they attend Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation often (minimally once a year)

III. Moral Development – Life in Christ

This section deals with our response to God’s love for us. As His children, we want to live as Jesus taught us.

At the end of the school year, Third Graders should:

- Be very familiar with the Ten Commandments, and the Great Commandments Jesus taught ccc 2084 – 2550, 2055
- Fully understand the concepts of conscience, free will and responsibility for actions ccc 1777 – 78
- Be taught the Beatitudes and understand Jesus’ call to love, forgive and take care of each other ccc 1942, 1948
- Be aware that the Church continues the work of Jesus by serving people all over the world (Missionary Work) ccc 2258, 2319

- Be acquainted with the concepts of discipleship and stewardship ccc 2415, 2456
- Be involved in service projects within the parish ccc 340

IV. Prayer Life

This section deals with another way we respond to God, As His children we must get to know Him better and spend time talking with and listening to Him. We learn about God by reading the Bible and prayer is essential for growing as a child of God.

At the end of the school year, Third Graders should:

- Be developing the habit of daily prayer – we should pray always and everywhere ccc 2659, 2742 – 45
- Know the Apostle’s Creed (hopefully by memory) ccc 190
- Participate in formal and spontaneous prayer situations
- Know that the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray ccc 2650 – 52
- Be familiar with the Rosary, its mysteries and the history behind it ccc 2678
- Be familiar with the Stations of the Cross and participate in them during Lent
- Experience devotions such as the blessing of throats on St. Blaise day, receiving ashes, palms, etc.
- Be introduced to Benediction and Eucharistic Adoration ccc 1378 – 81
- Understand that we are to pray for our enemies or those we don’t like
- Know that the Bible is the inspired word of God and that it is a guide for our life ccc 76
- Know the difference between the Old Testament and New Testament and be familiar with the major themes and characters of both ccc 489, 128 – 30
- Understand that everything the Church teaches comes from the Bible ccc 107
- Know the Pentecost story and that the Holy Spirit guided the Apostles to start the Church ccc 731 – 32
- Be introduced to the Acts of the Apostles
- Know the life story of Mary ccc 967
- Be reading the lives of various Saints ccc 828 - 29

Diocese of Colorado Springs

Essential Curriculum Expectations

For

Religious Education

Fourth Grade

I. Creed – Profession of Faith

This section deals with what God, Our Heavenly Father, has revealed about Himself and His plan for our salvation. This has been revealed through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The delivery of the Faith begins with the fact that God acted first – He has given us everything for no other reason than that He loves us.

At the end of the school year, Fourth Graders should:

- Know that God is a Trinity of Persons, a Family. We are united to this Family through the Church and its Sacraments. This is the Communion of Saints that includes the faithful on earth and everyone in purgatory and in heaven ccc 950, 962, 1655
- Know that God takes care of everything and we place our trust in Him ccc 303 – 305, 321 – 22
- Understand that Jesus was both God and man, conceived by the Blessed Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit ccc 486, 497
- Be familiar with the teachings on the Immaculate Conception ccc 490 - 93
- The Paschal Mystery includes the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus ccc 654
- Know what Jesus taught about the Kingdom of Heaven ccc 541 – 42
- Know that the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles at Pentecost and guided them to continue Jesus' teaching ccc 1287, 2623
- Know that the Church is Trinitarian – prepared by the Father, founded by the Son, sustained by the Spirit ccc 759 – 68, 778
- Know that Jesus is the head of the Church ccc 1549
- Understand that we are called to spread the word of God ccc 849
- Know that Peter was the first Pope and that to this day, the line of succession is unbroken ccc 882
- Know that the Church is universal and here for all people ccc 830 – 31
- Understand that we are part of the world wide Church ccc 849
- Be familiar with the Precepts of the Church ccc 2032 – 33

II. Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian Mystery

This section deals with the way God, Our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit continues to make Himself and His plan for our salvation present today. In the sacraments God touches us and we touch Him. This touch changes us in that we are freed from sin and become His children. God has given us everything simply because He loves us. The reception of the sacraments is one way we say “yes” to God.

At the end of the school year, Fourth Graders should:

- Know that liturgy is the participation of the people in the work of God. It is celebrated by the faithful on earth and all in heaven ccc 1069
- Know that liturgy is the public prayer of the Church that includes the Mass, the Sacraments and Liturgy of the Hours. In liturgy, we pray what we believe.
- Be very familiar with the celebration of the Mass – the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding Rites ccc 1348 – 55
- Understand their Sunday Obligation ccc 2189 - 2195
- Be encouraged to participate in the Liturgy as altar servers, greeters and proclaimers
- Be very familiar with the Liturgical Seasons and the symbolic colors associated with them and with the special feast days that occur within each season ccc 1172 - 3
- Know the Holy Days of Obligation in the U. S. (unless otherwise determined by the local diocese): Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Ascension, Assumption and All Saints Day
- Have a good understanding of all of the Sacraments

III. Moral Development – Life in Christ

This section deals with our response to God’s love for us. As His children, we want to live as Jesus taught us.

At the end of the school year, Fourth Graders should:

- Have studied the Ten Commandments in depth understanding that the first three deal with our relationship with God and the last seven deal with our relationship with others ccc 2052- 2550
- Understand that conscience is an inner gift that helps us distinguish right from wrong and that we need to examine our conscience regularly ccc 1795 – 1802
- Realize the consequences of sin on our relationship with God and with others ccc 761, 1472
- Grasp a simple method for making moral decisions ccc 1757 – 61
- Know what Sanctifying Grace and Actual Grace are ccc 200, 2003 – 04
- Know the Precepts of the Church
- Understand virtue is the habit of doing good ccc 1833
- Be familiar with the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy ccc 2447
- Know that human life is sacred and know that the right to life is the most basic human right ccc 2258
- Understand the concept of stewardship and know that God expects us to share our time, talent and treasure with others ccc 2456
- Be involved in service projects in the parish and community at large
- Read the lives of the Saints

IV. Prayer Life

This section deals with another way we respond to God. As His children we must get to know Him better and spend time talking with and listening to Him. We learn about God by reading the Bible and prayer is essential for growing as a child of God.

At the end of the school year, Fourth Graders should:

- Fully participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days
- Have a daily prayer life
- Understand the power of prayer ccc 2610
- Know all of the basic prayers including: Morning Offering, the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and Hail Holy Queen
- Be comfortable with different ways of praying including: silence, praying with scripture, formal and spontaneous communal prayer and prayers of petition in a general intercessions format

- Take part in devotions such as: praying the Rosary, doing the Stations of the Cross, receiving ashes and palms, having their throats blessed, etc.
- Know that you can pray at any time – while walking, at school, riding in the bus/car, doing chores, playing sports, taking a test, arguing with your siblings, etc. ccc 2743
- Continue to regularly receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Study the life of Mary
- Know that God's laws for our lives are taught in the Old Testament in the Ten Commandments and in the New Testament by Jesus ccc 2054 – 55
- Know the Beatitudes
- Be familiar with the parables of Jesus

Diocese of Colorado Springs

Essential Curriculum Expectations

For

Religious Education

Fifth Grade

I. Creed – Profession of Faith

This section deals with what God, Our Heavenly Father, has revealed about Himself and His plan for our salvation. This has been revealed through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The delivery of the Faith begins with the fact that God acted first – He has given us everything for no other reason than that He loves us.

At the end of the school year, Fifth Graders should:

- Know that the desire for God is written in the human heart ccc 27 – 30
- Be competent in their understanding of the Trinity ccc 234
- Know that Salvation comes through Jesus ccc 430
- Know that through Jesus, God the Father is revealed to us ccc 561
- Know that laying on of hands and anointing are signs of the Holy Spirit’s presence ccc 1241, 1289
- Understand that when we say the Creed with faith we enter into communion with God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit ccc 197
- Know that death was not part of God the Father’s plan, but entered the world as a consequence of original sin ccc 1008, 1018
- Immediately after death comes an individual judgment ccc 1021 - 24, 1030 – 36, 1054 – 57
- Judgment Day, or the general judgment, comes at the end of time ccc 1038 – 41

II. Sacraments – Celebration of the Christian Mystery

This section deals with the way God, Our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit continues to make Himself and His plan for our salvation present today. In the sacraments God touches us and we touch Him. This touch changes us in that we are freed from sin and become His children. God has given us everything simply because He loves us. The reception of the sacraments is one way we say “yes” to God.

At the end of the school year, Fifth Graders should:

- Know that throughout the liturgical year we celebrate the life of Jesus ccc 1194

- Be very familiar with and participating regularly in the celebration of the Mass ccc 1348 – 55
- Be encouraged to participate in the liturgy as altar servers, greeters and proclaimers of the Word.
- Know that the liturgical year is centered on Easter ccc 1168 - 71
- Be very familiar with all the Sacraments – the Sacraments of Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing and the Sacraments of Service ccc 1212, 1285, 1420, 1533
- Be encouraged to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly
- Understand that the priests and bishops act in the Person of Christ (in Persona Christi) and give us the Sacraments ccc 1548

III. Moral Development – Life in Christ

This section deals with our response to God’s love for us. As His children, we want to live as Jesus taught us.

At the end of the school year, Fifth Graders should:

- Understand the sacredness of human life and that the right to life is the most basic human right ccc 2258
- Be able to distinguish between serious (mortal) and venial sin ccc 1859 – 62
- Be practicing a simple method of moral decision making ccc 1750 – 54
- Be able to apply the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy to their lives
- Be involved in service projects in the parish and community
- Be aware of the need for peace and justice in the world
- Study the lives of the Saints involved in social reform
- Be practicing a life of personal stewardship in sharing their time, talents and treasure with others ccc 2456
- Be open to the possibility of God’s call to the priesthood or religious life
- Have been introduced to a Family Life Program that teaches the Catholic beliefs on human sexuality and marriage

IV. Prayer Life

This section deals with another way we respond to God. As His children we must get to know Him better and spend time talking with and listening to Him. We learn about God by reading the Bible and prayer is essential for growing as a child of God.

At the end of the school year, Fifth Graders should:

- Have a daily prayer life ccc 2742
- Know that Jesus prayed at all the decisive moments of His life ccc 2600
- We pray only to God, we honor Mary and the Saints and ask them to intercede on our behalf ccc 2673 – 79, 2683, 2692
- Take part in planning a prayer space and prayer services for their class and at home
- Know the basic prayers including the Angelus and Memorare
- Be familiar with Sacramentals
- Be familiar with the devotions of Eucharistic adoration, Benediction, Novenas and Pilgrimages
- Begin to study the history of the Bible ccc 132 - 33
- Be introduced to some form of lectionary study
- Study the life and feasts of Mary (Marian Dogma) ccc 967